

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application. Added text is indicated by underlining, and deleted text is indicated by ~~strike through~~. Changes are identified by a vertical bar at the left edge of text.

Listing of Claims:

1 1. (currently amended) A computer system comprising a first network, a
2 first computer connected to the first network, a second network connected to the first network,
3 and a second computer and a third computer connected to the second network, the first computer
4 comprising:
5 a communication interface for connecting the first computer to the first network;
6 a disk storage device for storing data;
7 a disk interface for communicating data with the disk storage device;
8 a CPU for controlling the first computer; and
9 a memory for storing data and program code for operating the CPU,
10 wherein the program code includes:
11 a module for recording situations of access to a file stored in the disk
12 storage device from the third computer, the module being executed by the CPU at
13 predetermined intervals, and
14 wherein the program code is executed depending on the access situation, the
15 program code further including:
16 a module for searching the second network connected to the third
17 computer;
18 a module for searching a candidate for migration for the second network;
19 a module for designating the file as the candidate for migration to the
20 second computer;

21 a module for transmitting a migrator acceptor search packet to the second
22 computer for inquiring whether or not the second computer can accept the file in
23 accordance with a requested storage capacity;

24 a module for receiving a reply packet from the second computer as a
25 response to the migrator acceptor search packet;

26 a module for transmitting an advertisement packet to the third computer
27 either after or before the file is transferred to the second computer, the advertisement
28 packet indicating that the file is transferred to the second computer;

29 a module for transferring the file to the second computer;

30 a module for storing information indicative of whether the file has been
31 transferred to the second computer or the file exists in the first computer;

32 a module for storing a path name for the second computer when the file
33 has been transferred to the second computer;

34 a module for allowing the third computer to access the file via the first
35 computer based on the information and the path name when the first computer receives
36 an access request from the third computer for the file after the file has been transferred to
37 the second computer;

38 a module for receiving a return request packet from the second computer
39 and issuing a read request in response, for returning the file to the first computer; and

40 a module for receiving and storing the file in the first computer, when the
41 file is returned from the second computer.

1 2. (previously presented) The computer system according to claim 1,
2 wherein:

3 the memory stores a path of the file accessed by the third computer
4 associating the path with information on the access situations of the third computer, and

5 the program code further includes a module for designating the file
6 corresponding to the access situation information as the candidate for migration when the
7 information satisfies a predetermined condition.

1 3. (canceled).

1 4. (currently amended) The computer system according to claim 2, wherein
2 the third computer comprises a memory for storing data and program code, and
3 the program code in the memory of the third computer includes a module for
4 receiving the advertisement packet and a module for making access to the second computer for
5 the file according to the advertisement packet.

1 5. (previously presented) The computer system according to claim 1,
2 wherein:
3 the first network is further connected to a third network, and
4 the program code further includes a module for transmitting the migrator acceptor
5 search packet to the third network when no computer suitable for accepting the file is found in
6 the second network.

1 6-8. (canceled)

1 9. (currently amended) A first computer which is connected to a first
2 network capable of communicating with a second network including a second computer and a
3 third computer and which has a file accessed by the third computer, comprising:
4 a communication interface for connecting the first computer to the first network;
5 a CPU for controlling the first computer;
6 a disk storage device for storing data;
7 a disk interface for communicating data with the disk storage device; and
8 a memory for storing data and program code for operating the CPU,
9 wherein the program code includes:
10 a module for recording situations of access to a file stored in the disk
11 storage device from the third computer, and
12 wherein the program code is executed depending on the access situation, the
13 program code further including:

14 a module for searching the second network connected to the third
15 computer;
16 a module for searching a candidate for migration for the second network;
17 a module for designating the file as the candidate for migration to the
18 second computer;
19 a module for transmitting a migrator acceptor search packet to the second
20 computer for inquiring whether or not the second computer can accept the file in
21 accordance with a requested storage capacity;
22 a module for receiving a reply packet from the second computer as a
23 response to the migration admittance packet;
24 a module for transmitting an advertisement packet to the third computer
25 either after or before the file is transferred to the second computer, the advertisement
26 packet indicating that the file is transferred to the second computer;
27 a module for transferring the file to the second computer
28 a module for storing information indicative of whether the file has been
29 transferred to the second computer or the file exists in the first computer;
30 a module for storing a path name for the second computer when the file
31 has been transferred to the second computer;
32 a module for allowing the third computer to access the file via the first
33 computer based on the information and the path name when the first computer receives
34 an access request from the third computer for the file after the file has been transferred to
35 the second computer;
36 a module for receiving a return request packet from the second computer
37 and issuing a read request in response, for returning the file to the first computer; and
38 a module for receiving and storing the file in the first computer, when the
39 file is returned from the second computer.

1 10. (canceled)

1 11. (canceled).

1 12. (currently amended) A program stored in a memory of a first computer
2 which is connected to a first network capable of communicating with a second network including
3 a second computer and a third computer and which has a file accessed by the third computer,
4 comprising:

5 a first subroutine and a second subroutine,
6 wherein the first subroutine includes a module for recording situations of access
7 to the file of the first computer from the third computer, and

8 wherein the second subroutine is executed depending on the access situation, the
9 second subroutine including:

10 a module for searching the second network connected to the third
11 computer;

12 a module for searching a candidate for migration for the second network;

13 a module for designating the file as the candidate for migration to the
14 second computer;

15 a module for transmitting a migrator acceptor search packet to the second
16 computer for inquiring whether or not the second computer can accept the file in
17 accordance with a requested storage capacity;

18 a module for receiving a migration admittance packet from the second
19 computer as a response to the migration admittance packet;

20 a module for transmitting an advertisement packet to the third computer
21 either after or before the file is transferred to the second computer, the advertisement
22 packet indicating that the file is transferred to the second computer;

23 a module for transferring the file to the second computer;

24 a module for storing information indicative of whether the file has been
25 transferred to the second computer or the file exists in the first computer;

26 a module for storing a path name for the second computer when the file
27 has been transferred to the second computer;

28 a module for allowing the third computer to access the file via the first
29 computer based on the information and the path name when the first computer receives
30 an access request from the third computer for the file after the file has been transferred to
31 the second computer;

32 a module for receiving a return request packet from the second computer
33 and issuing a read request in response, for returning the file to the first computer; and

34 a module for receiving and storing the file in the first computer, when the
35 file is returned from the second computer.

1 13. (canceled)

1 14. (previously presented) The computer system according to claim 1,
2 wherein the program code further includes a module for transferring a directory belonging to the
3 file to the second computer.

1 15. (previously presented) The computer system according to claim 1,
2 wherein the program code further includes a module for transmitting the path name when the
3 first computer receives an access request for the file.

1 16. (previously presented) The computer system according to claim 1,
2 wherein the file is stored into the second computer when the file is transferred from the first
3 computer to the second computer.

1 17. (previously presented) The computer system according to claim 1,
2 wherein the file is returned from the second computer to the first computer depending on another
3 access situation.

1 18. (previously presented) The computer system according to claim 17,
2 wherein the program code further includes a module for deleting the path name when the file is
3 retuned from the second computer to the first computer.

1 19. (previously presented) The computer system according to claim 1,
2 wherein the module for transferring the file to the second computer is performed if the response
3 indicates that the second computer accepts the file and the second computer has a capacity for
4 storing the file.

1 20. (previously presented) The computer system according to claim 1,
2 wherein the first computer transfers the file to the second computer, according to the access
3 request for the file or according to reduction of an amount of the access packet, after the
4 advertisement packet is sent.

1 21. (previously presented) A method of operating a computer system server
2 comprising a first computer connected to a first network through a communication interface,
3 such that a second network is connected to the first network and such that second and third
4 computers are connected to the second network, the method comprising:
5 recording situations of access from the third computer to a file stored in a disk
6 storage device that communicates with the first computer through a disk interface, the recording
7 of situations of access being executed at predetermined intervals depending on the access
8 situation;
9 searching the second network connected to the third computer;
10 searching a candidate for migration for the second network;
11 designating the file as the candidate for migration to the second computer;
12 transmitting a migrator acceptor search packet to the second computer for
13 inquiring whether or not the second computer can accept the file in accordance with a requested
14 storage capacity;
15 receiving a reply packet from the second computer as a response to the migrator
16 acceptor search packet;
17 transmitting an advertisement packet to the third computer either after or before
18 the file is transferred to the second computer, the advertisement packet indicating that the file is
19 transferred to the second computer;

20 transferring the file to the second computer;
21 storing information indicative of whether the file has been transferred to the
22 second computer or the file exists in the first computer;
23 storing a path name for the second computer when the file has been transferred to
24 the second computer; and
25 allowing the third computer to access the file via the first computer based on the
26 information and the path name when the first computer receives an access request from the third
27 computer for the file after the file has been transferred to the second computer;
28 receiving a return request packet from the second computer and issuing a read
29 request in response, for returning the file to the first computer; and
30 receiving and storing the file in the first computer, when the file is returned to the
31 first computer from the second computer.

1 22. (previously presented) The method according to claim 21, further
2 including:

3 transferring a directory belonging to the file to the second computer.

1 23. (previously presented) The method according to claim 21, further
2 including:

3 transmitting the path name when the first computer receives an access request for
4 the file.

1 24. (previously presented) The method according to claim 21, further
2 including:

3 storing the file into the second computer when the file is transferred from the first
4 computer to the second computer.